

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

By this Amendment, Fig. 4 is modified to more clearly depict show “[a] support leg 94 extends from a lower surface of the support surface 90 to facilitate attaching the circular bed 54 to the frame structure 20,” as supported at page 6, lines 6-8 of the application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 13 are amended. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment.

In view thereof, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and objections to the pending claims.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 6 because of informalities. Claim 6 has been amended and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of the Amendments to the Drawings, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 4, 6-9, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Harding (U.S. Patent 5,992,348). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections because Harding does not disclose an array as required by base claims 1 and 13. Furthermore, in view of the additional limitations included in the amendments to base claims 1 and 13, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harding in view of Palier (U.S. Patent Des. 294,752). The Examiner furthermore rejected claims 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harding in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 5,577,465), as well as claim 14 as being unpatentable over Harding in view of Batterton (U.S. Patent 5,709,164). The Examiner also rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harding in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 5,577,465) as applied to claim 10, and further in view of Batterton. The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harding in view of Cook as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of PVC Furniture, Weekend Workshop Collection, by Edward A. Baldwin, 1992. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, base claims 1, 10 and 13 have been amended to include a non-terminal aperture located between the joint members, a limitation that none of the cited references teach or suggest. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejection of these claims, as well as the §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 5, 12 and 14 which depend from these base claims, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bondi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Bondi" clearly distinguishable.

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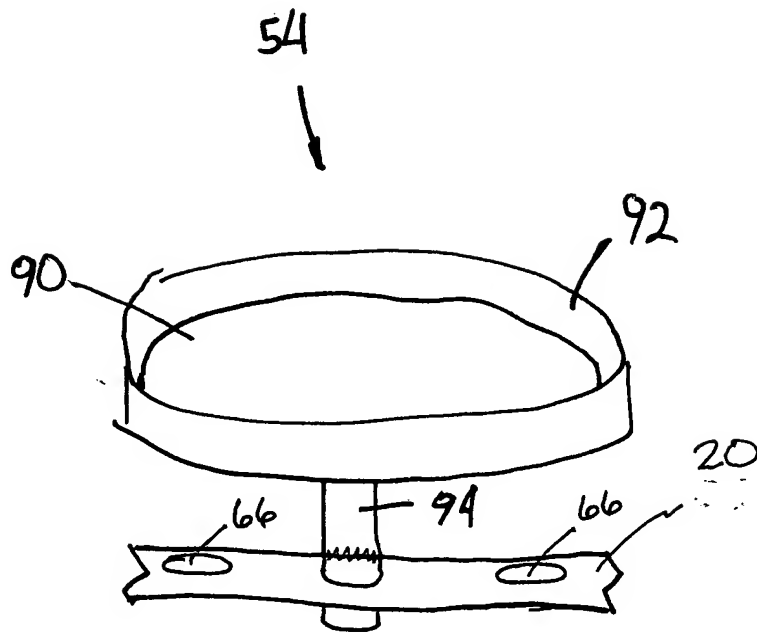


Fig. 4